MARVEL
12
LGY#255
GHOST RIDER
PERCY
SMITH
JUNIOR
VALENZA

When innocent blood is spilled, a ***Spirit of Vengeance*** is born, and **JOHNNY BLAZE** finds himself transformed!

Marvel Comics presents...

GHOST RIDER

"Necropolis"

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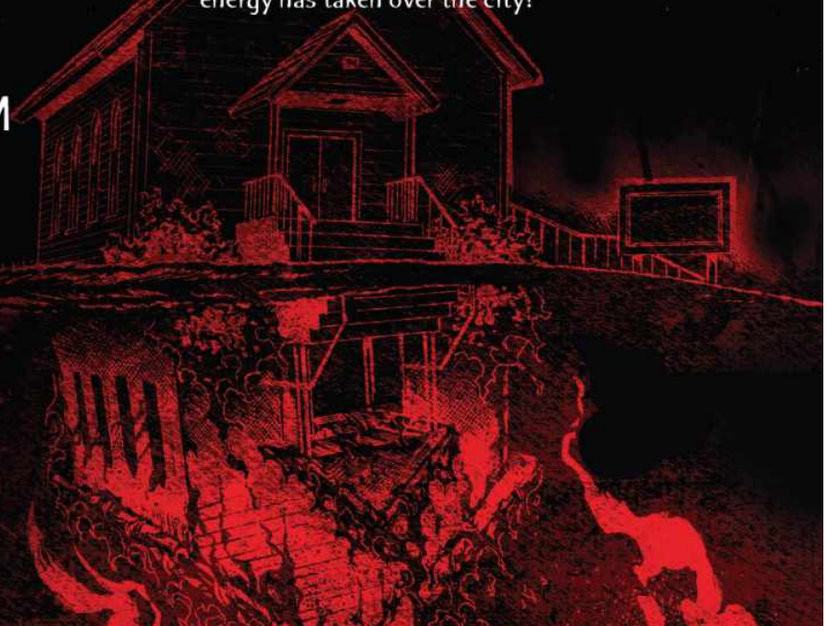
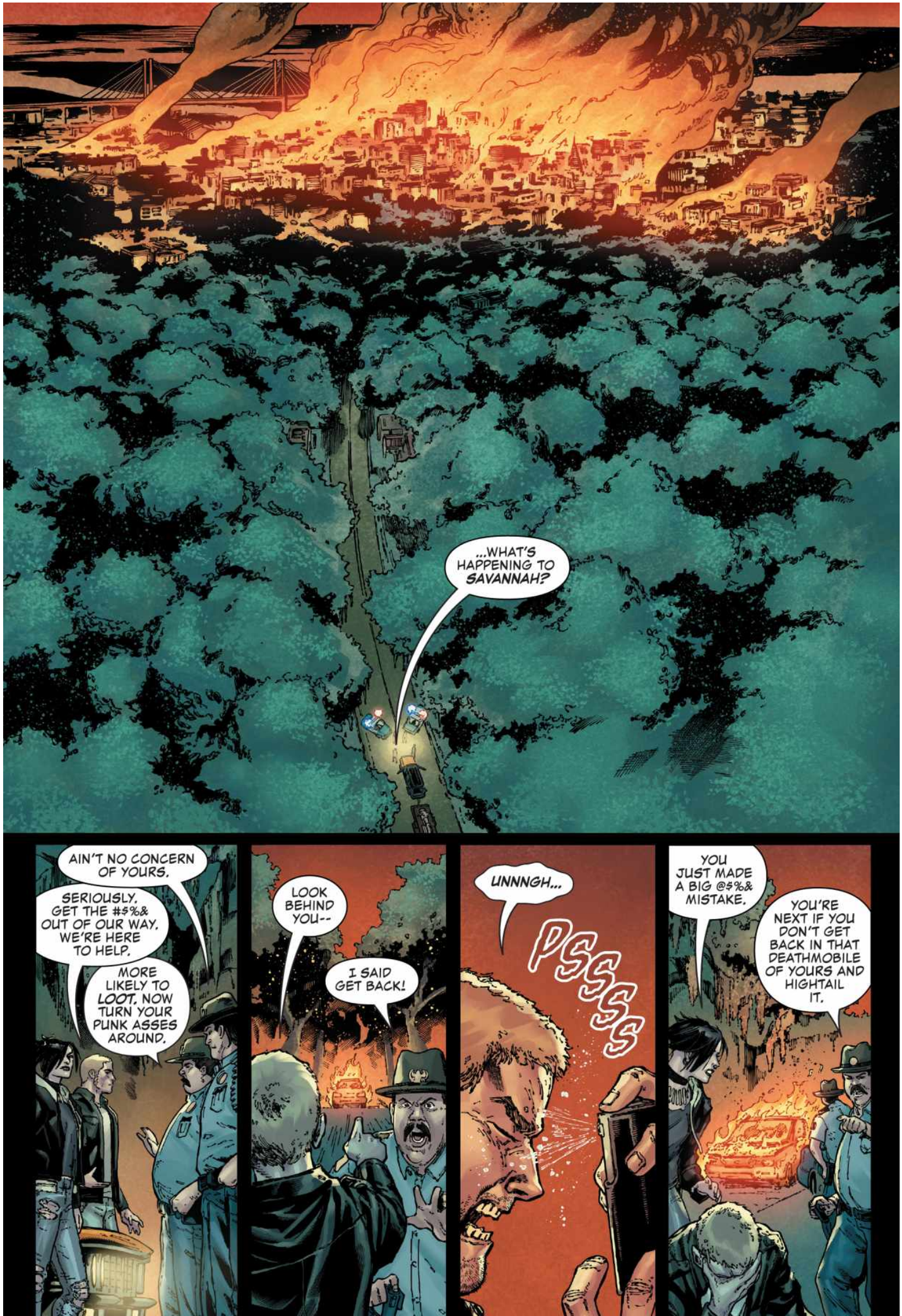
PREVIOUSLY...

The Ghost Rider's old foe Blackheart had secretly influenced the corners of power in the U.S. and used his dark powers to sow chaos throughout the country. Although Johnny and the Rider sent Blackheart back to Hell, his influence can still be felt across the country. Johnny and exiled F.B.I. agent Talia Warroad are traveling together, stamping out what's left of Blackheart's dark conspiracy.

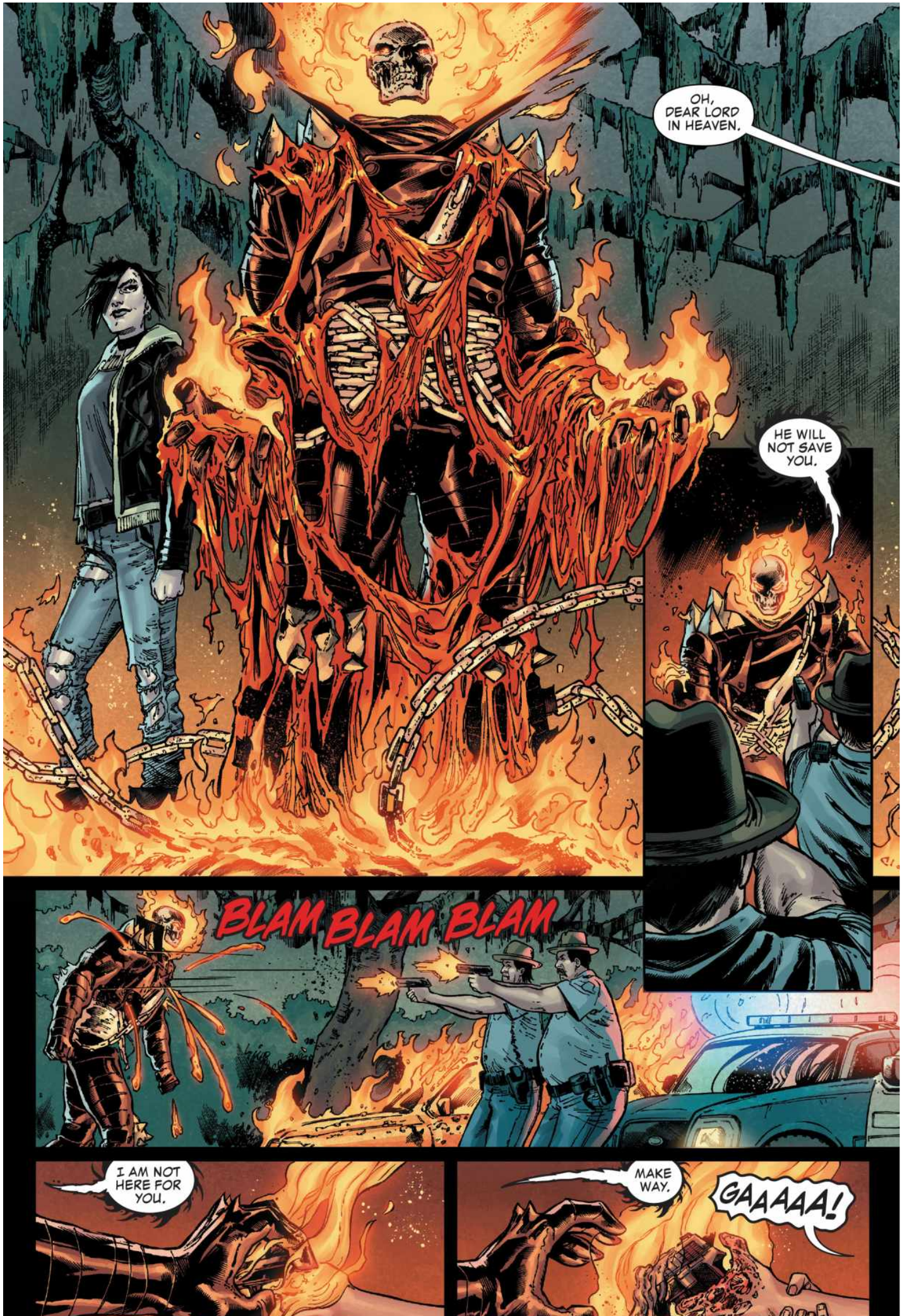
Now Johnny and Talia arrive in Savannah, Georgia, as a mysterious surge of demonic energy has taken over the city!



SPFFFFFF
GEORGIA.
THE HELL IS THIS?
WHOEVER IT IS, THEY'RE COMING IN HARD AND FAST.
VROOM
HOLD UP!
YOU FOLKS NEED TO GO BACK THE WAY YOU CAME.
SCREEECH
THIS WHOLE AREA'S LOCKED DOWN.
YOU NEED TO GET OUT OF OUR WAY AND TELL US...

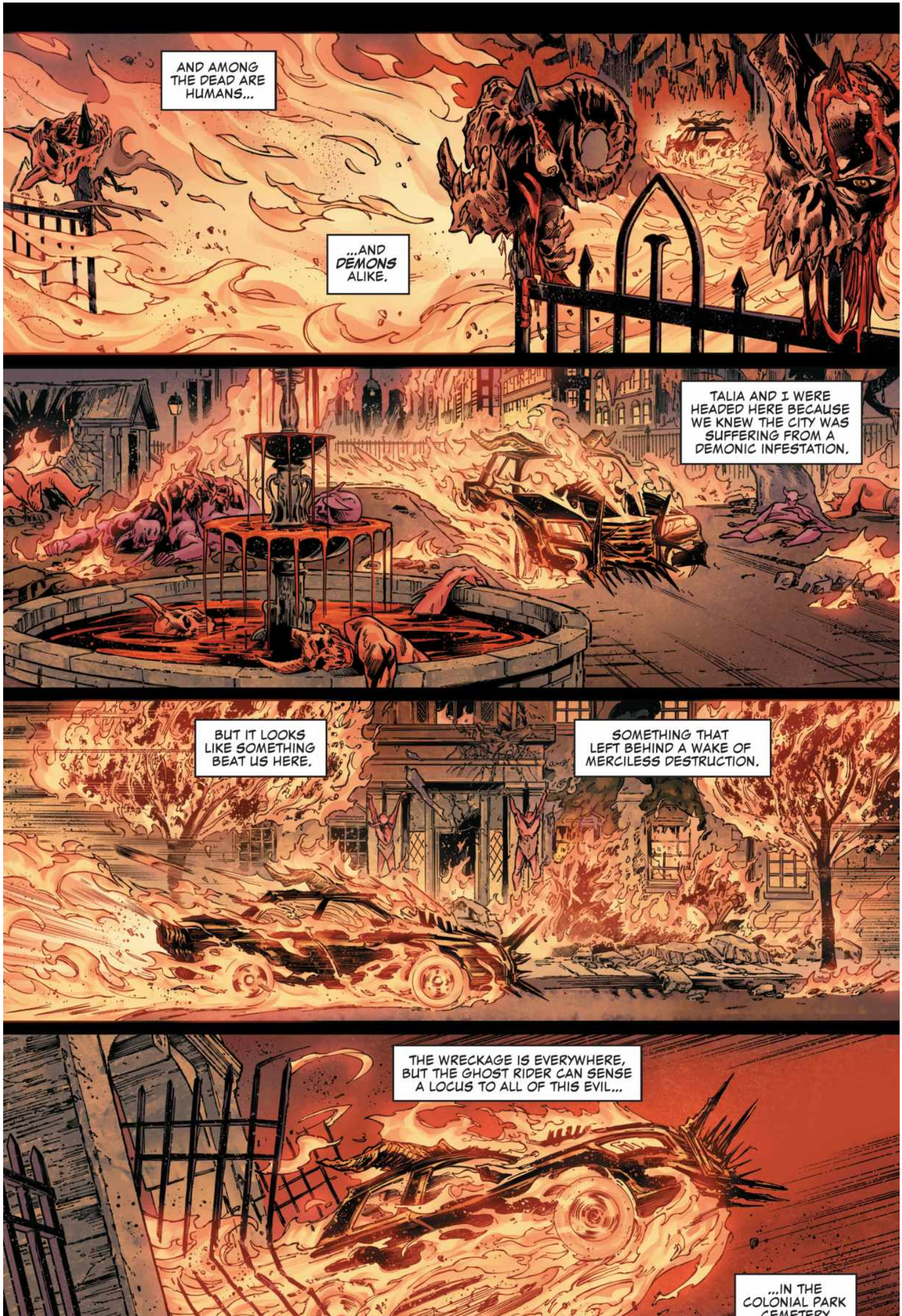

...WHAT'S HAPPENING TO SAVANNAH?
AIN'T NO CONCERN OF YOURS.
SERIOUSLY. GET THE #$%& OUT OF OUR WAY. WE'RE HERE TO HELP.
MORE LIKELY TO LOOT. NOW TURN YOUR PUNK ASSES AROUND.
LOOK BEHIND YOU--
I SAID GET BACK!
UNNNGH...
PSSSS
YOU JUST MADE A BIG @$%& MISTAKE.
YOU'RE NEXT IF YOU DON'T GET BACK IN THAT DEATHMOBILE OF YOURS AND HIGHTAIL IT.

AEEEIIIII!
JOHNNY? HOW YOU DOING?
IT BURNS...
YES. IT BURNS.


OH, DEAR LORD IN HEAVEN.
HE WILL NOT SAVE YOU.
BLAM BLAM BLAM
I AM NOT HERE FOR YOU.
MAKE WAY.
GAAAAA!

WHAT DO YOU SENSE?
THE PAIN AND FEAR OF THOUSANDS. AND...
...SOMETHING ELSE.
YOU SHOULD STAY BEHIND.
STAY BEHIND? I'M THE ONE WHO BROUGHT US HERE!
THEN YOU HAVE SERVED YOUR PURPOSE.
NO WAY AM I LETTING THAT SKULL-HEADED @#$% HAVE ALL THE FUN.
LET'S SKIP THE PART WHERE YOU TRY GETTING IN MY WAY AGAIN.
OBLIVISCI.

SAVANNAH IS KNOWN AS A NECROPOLIS, A CITY BUILT OVER ITS OWN DEAD.
REVOLUTIONARY WAR. CIVIL WAR. YELLOW FEVER. THOUSANDS OF THE DEAD OCCUPY MASS GRAVES THAT RUN BENEATH THE STREETS AND PARKS.
AND NOW DEATH SEEMS TO HAVE RISEN TO THE SURFACE.
SAVANNAH


AND AMONG THE DEAD ARE HUMANS...
...AND *DEMONS* ALIKE.
TALIA AND I WERE HEADED HERE BECAUSE WE KNEW THE CITY WAS SUFFERING FROM A DEMONIC INFESTATION.
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING BEAT US HERE.
SOMETHING THAT LEFT BEHIND A WAKE OF MERCILESS DESTRUCTION.
THE WRECKAGE IS EVERYWHERE, BUT THE GHOST RIDER CAN SENSE A LOCUS TO ALL OF THIS EVIL...
...IN THE COLONIAL PARK

WHAT HAPPENED HERE, DEMON?
YOU AGAIN...
HAVEN'T YOU HAD ENOUGH?
YOU ALREADY KILLED ME... GHOST RIDER.
YOU SPEAK NONSENSE, DEMON.
I ASK AGAIN--WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
THE CITY... WAS OUR PLAYGROUND AND OUR ALTAR.
AND THEN...YOU CAME...
YOU CAME... AND BURNED IT ALL DOWN!

...TRYING TO DITCH ME.
@#%!
SCREEEE
ARE YOU OKAY?
WE THOUGHT HE WAS HERE TO HELP US.
BUT HE KILLED EVERYTHING.
ARE YOU GOING TO KILL ME?
NO, I'M NOT GOING TO KILL YOU.
I'M ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS.
THERE ARE NO GOOD GUYS.

"...EVEN THE ONES WHO ARE SUPPOSED TO SAVE US."
I AM YOUR ENEMY.
BUT I AM NOT THE ENEMY YOU BELIEVE ME TO BE.
I SAW WHAT YOU DID, GHOST RIDER.
WE LIVED IN A KIND OF DARK HARMONY WITH THIS CITY. IT FED US.
GHOOM
BUT YOU... YOU BURNED IT TO THE GROUND.
KROOM
YOU KILLED ALL OF MY CHILDREN.
AND RUINED SO MANY OF THE LIVES YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO DEFEND.
THORNTON
YOU'RE A GREATER EVIL THAN ANYTHING HELL HAS TO OFFER.

I CAN FEEL DEATH COMING FOR ME.
I CAN FEEL HELL WIDENING ITS JAWS.
I ONLY HOPE TO REMAIN HERE LONG ENOUGH TO SEE YOUR END.

HAARRR!
HISSSSS!
THE CROSS IS PAIN.
THE CROSS IS DEATH.
AND SO THE CROSS WILL BE MY SWORD.
FWOOSH

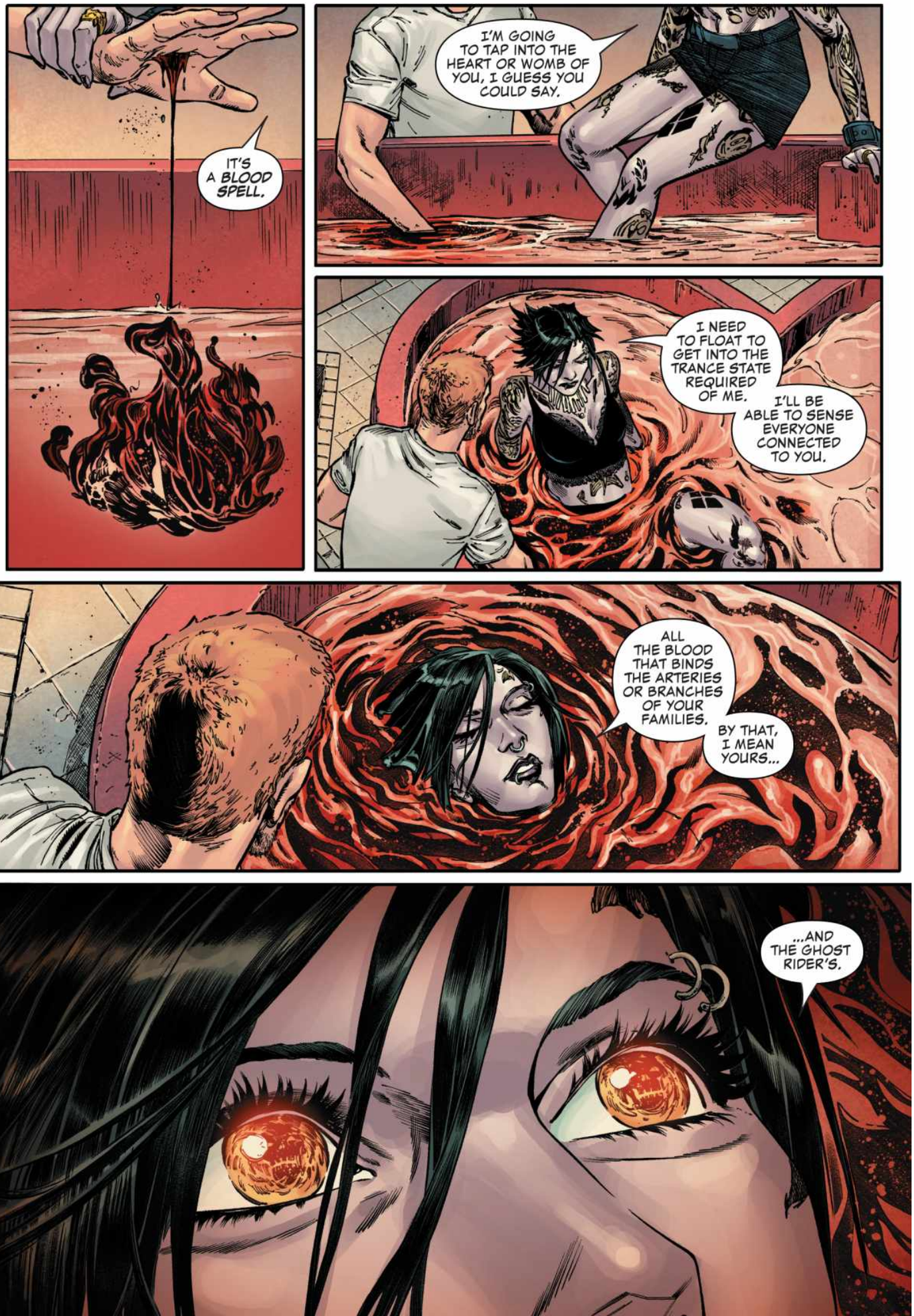
RETURN TO DARKNESS, OR SUFFER IN THE LIGHT!

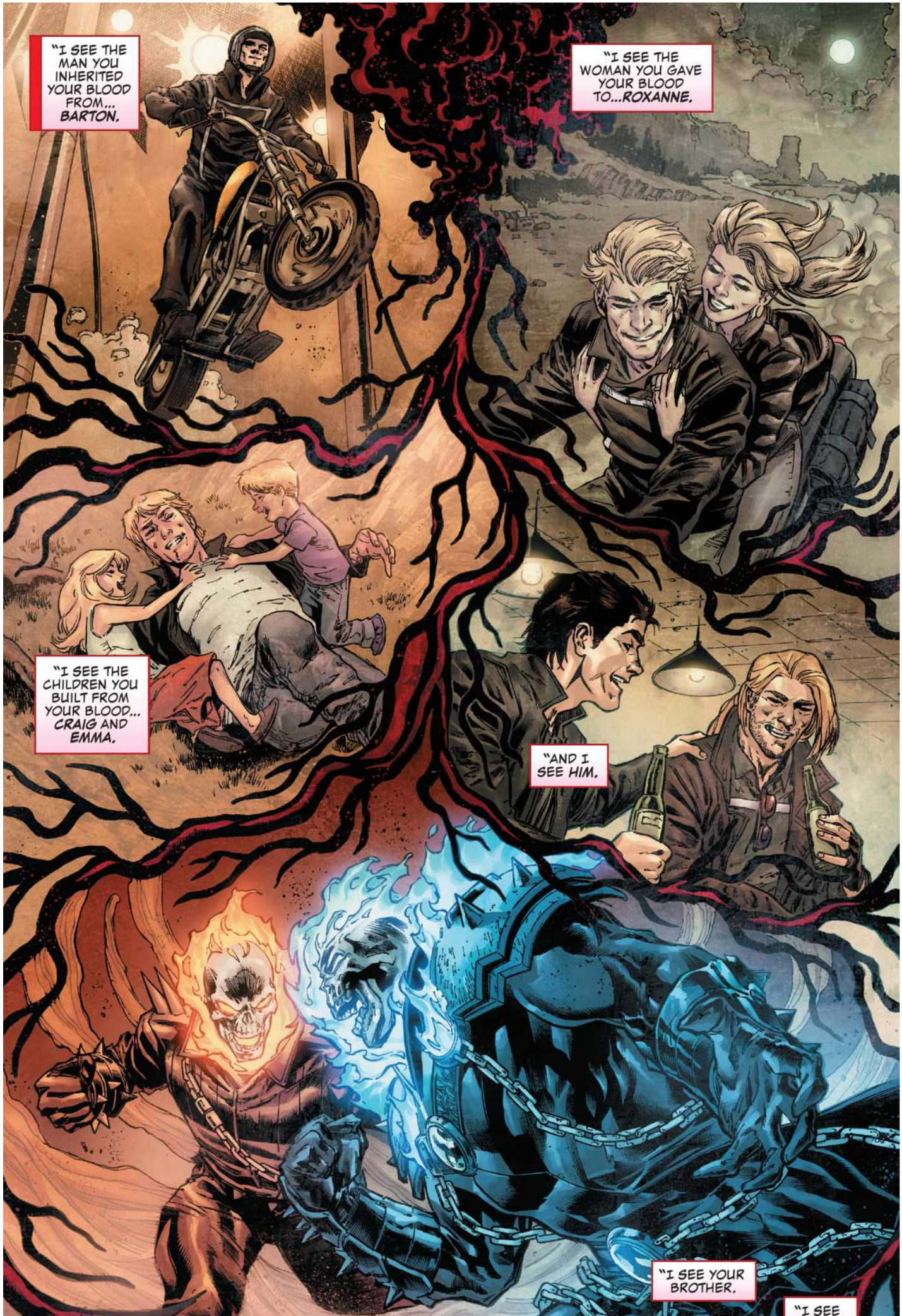
YOU...YOU'VE RUINED ALL OUR GOOD WORK HERE...
THERE WAS ONLY A SECOND MORE OF LIFE LEFT IN ITS BODY, AND IN THAT TIME, WE ATE BRIEFLY OF ITS SIN.
I SAW ITS FINAL NIGHTMARE.
THE FIGURE IT SHOWED ME...
...FELT AS FAMILIAR AS A BROTHER.

FIFTY MILES NORTH OF SAVANNAH.
DARREN'S HARDWARE
WHEN THE RIDER TAKES OVER MY BODY, BAD THINGS HAPPEN.
CARS CRASH. A STREET GETS TORN UP. A BUILDING GETS TRASHED.
MONSTERS DIE. AND SOMETIMES...
LAWN CARE
...SOMETIMES THOSE MONSTERS ARE PEOPLE.
BUT THE CATACLYSM WE SAW IN SAVANNAH...THAT WAS NEXT-LEVEL CHAOS, SCORCHED-EARTH PUNISHMENT.
THE DEMONS BLAMED ME.
DON'T TOUCH THAT!

THEY BLAMED A GHOST RIDER AT LEAST.
AND...I DON'T THINK THEY'RE WRONG.
THERE'S SOMEBODY ELSE OUT THERE.
AND I THINK I KNOW WHO.
THERE'S NO REASON TO WASTE OUR TIME GUESSING...
...WHEN WE COULD JUST ASK.
HELP ME GRAB A FEW OF THESE.
NATURAL
WATER SOFTENER SALT

WE TOLD THE MOTEL CLERK WE NEEDED A TUB.
A BIG ONE.
The Romance MOTEL
THEY GAVE US THE HONEYMOON SUITE.
NATURAL
NATURAL
THANKFULLY, THEY RENTED BY THE HOUR.
THAT'S THE LAST OF THE SALT.
ALL DONE.
NOT QUITE. GIVE ME YOUR HAND.
#$%@!
SLLK


IT'S A BLOOD SPELL.
I'M GOING TO TAP INTO THE HEART OR WOMB OF YOU, I GUESS YOU COULD SAY.
I NEED TO FLOAT TO GET INTO THE TRANCE STATE REQUIRED OF ME.
I'LL BE ABLE TO SENSE EVERYONE CONNECTED TO YOU.
ALL THE BLOOD THAT BINDS THE ARTERIES OR BRANCHES OF YOUR FAMILIES.
BY THAT, I MEAN YOURS...
...AND THE GHOST RIDER'S.


"I SEE THE MAN YOU INHERITED YOUR BLOOD FROM... BARTON.
"I SEE THE WOMAN YOU GAVE YOUR BLOOD TO...ROXANNE.
"I SEE THE CHILDREN YOU BUILT FROM YOUR BLOOD... CRAIG AND EMMA.
"AND I SEE HIM.
"I SEE YOUR BROTHER.
"I SEE

I SEE HIS BODY ANYWAY.
BUT HE'S *DIFFERENT* NOW, JOHNNY.
"IN A WAY...HE MIGHT AS WELL BE *DEAD*."
NEXT: MY BROTHER'S KEEPER!

NEXT ISSUE

KETCH'S KEEPER

Another Ghost Rider is on the loose, leaving behind a wake of fiery destruction and brutality beyond measure! Is Danny Ketch to blame? Or will the clues lead Johnny Blaze and Talia Warroad to something even more sinister?

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